

Gorbachev meets Lithuanians

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday met a delegation of pro-independence communists from Lithuania, who oppose the Baltic republic party's decision to withdraw from the Soviet Communist Party. At the group was meeting Gorbachev and several top aides in Moscow, some 5,000 of their supporters staged a rally in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, where hundreds participating that party rally was described for the success of reforms. The meeting with the dissident grouping, largely supported by Russian residents of Lithuania, followed discussions Gorbachev held Thursday with the republic's party chief, Algirdas Brazauskas, and his leadership colleagues. Gorbachev, who has argued that the breakaway decision by the official party in Vilnius could lead to an overall breakup of the Soviet party, is due to visit Lithuania next week. Lithuanian aides told reporters after the meeting that the Soviet leader, who is state president as well as Communist Party general secretary, had expressed understanding for the Lithuanian party's decision.

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Consumption and expenditure curtailed; increased revenues forecast; defence and security retains priority slot

Austerity budget unveiled

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The government Saturday unveiled an austerity budget which cuts private and public consumption, depresses expenditure, and promises increased internal revenue along the lines of a structural adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The budget, presented by Finance Minister Bassem Jardaneh to the Lower House of Parliament, allocates JD 1.105 billion in total expenditures with projected revenues of JD 906.7 million.

Last year's budget estimated spending at JD 1,035 billion, but the proposed 1990 figure, although higher in dinar terms, represents a 20 per cent decrease in real terms because of devaluation of the currency and inflation.

"The 1990 budget is higher by about nine to 10 per cent than the 1989 one, but in real terms it is lower by at least 15 per cent because of inflation," economist Fadih Fanek told the Jordan Times in an interview. "This is also true for the 1989 budget compared with the 1988 budget," he added.

The proposed budget package relies on increased local taxes and other local revenues to cover 82 per cent of local expenditure, up from 73 per cent in 1989, in order to hold the "actual" budget deficit (expected to crystallise at the end of the financial year) to JD 362 million — 16 per cent of the expected gross domestic product in 1990, excluding foreign aid. This is down from an estimated JD 372 million deficit for 1989. One of the stipulations of the IMF accord is that the Kingdom would gradually trim the budget deficit over the next five years.

The "projected" JD 199.1 million deficit, Jardaneh explained to the House, is expected to be covered through external and internal borrowing as well as domestic revenues.

The new budget aims to increase reliance on local revenues "through development and improvement of methods of collection," according to Jardaneh.

Speaking to reporters after the session, the minister voiced confidence that the "measures already adopted by the government are sufficient to ensure the projected rise in internal revenues."

But he pledged to maintain social services, especially those offered by the ministries of education and health, and increased current expenditure by JD 98 million over 1989 to accommodate an increase in food subsidies, higher interest on foreign loans and pensions for retired education and health ministry staff.

Current expenditures estimated for education, health, and social development equal JD 127.5 million, an increase of seven per cent over 1989. This does not take into account the devaluation of the dinar or current inflation rates.

The government plans to increase subsidy of essential commodities by JD 35 million to JD 60 million to offset inflationary pressure. The minister explained to reporters later that any readjustment to the subsidy allocation to make room for possible increases in international prices would entail new legislation.

The budget envisages less dependence on foreign aid and projects \$360 million in assistance from external sources for 1990 compared with \$316 million in 1989. Jardaneh told reporters after his presentation that the new

figure represented an estimate with "background," but declined to say if there were firm commitments for such aid.

According to figures released by Jardaneh, the Kingdom's total foreign debts amount to \$8.3 billion, with \$1.8 billion of the total not yet dispensed to the Kingdom.

The budget also increased the allocation for interest on foreign

loans by JD 41 million to JD 135 million. A nominal increase of two per cent for development projects in the country is also included. A total of JD 214.2 million is earmarked to pay public sector employees, which is nearly as much as total capital expenditure for defence. However, no increase in public sector wages is envisaged, and this is considered a thorny issue which many observers expect deputies to raise during their debate on the budget.

Defence and security account for JD 254.8, compared with JD 252 million in 1989. Jardaneh reaffirmed the government's commitment to the two areas and said it would not tamper with necessities of national security and defence. "Special allocations were made to strengthen our armed forces and develop its self dependency to continue its national role," said Jardaneh.

Economists noted that cutting public and private consumption does save foreign currency or reduce the balance of trade; it also limits job opportunities and reduces overall economic activity.

One economic analyst who preferred anonymity said: "The apparent goals of the new budget are to rectify the economy's course without a clearly-defined policy for economic growth. By increasing internal revenues — which translate into more taxes and higher tariffs — investors would be dissuaded from investing in the country."

Another economist commented that "the 1990 budget may please the IMF, the World Bank and Jordan's creditors, but it does not address the resulting increase in unemployment and projected decline in investment."

The King, who is accompanied

by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, arrived here Friday for talks with President Hussein and to attend ceremonies marking Iraq's Army Day.

The discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab and international arenas, means to attain Arab solidarity, and the need to end all regional disputes in a just manner, Petra said.

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Middle East News

U.S. reassures Israel on excluding PLO but withholds guarantees

By Eileen Alt Powell

The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The United States says it is not pushing Israel to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) but is unwilling to meet Israel's demand for rigid guarantees in advance of Middle East peace talks, according to a U.S. government letter reported here.

The Hebrew daily *Yediot Aharonot*, in a front-page story, quoted from a document it said was a draft letter from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

It quoted Baker as stressing, that U.S. assurances should be "kept from the public eye." Baker had earlier said he would not offer secret guarantees of Israel.

Baker has been working to get Israel to accept an Egyptian invitation to open a dialogue with Palestinians as a step towards Israel's plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Last November, the Israeli government accepted a five-point Baker plan to facilitate the Egyptian meeting. But it demanded U.S. "side assurances" that the PLO will have not role and that the dialogue will be limited to Israel's election plan.

Baker has urged that Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid join him in preliminary talks in Washington.

Arens, the draft letter was given to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Avi Pazner, an adviser to Shamir, said of the newspaper report: "Many things there are not new, many things there are not accurate."

He added: "We are still engaged in a discussion with the

United States on the question of guarantees that the PLO will not be part of the negotiating process. Until we have reached an agreement with the Americans, we would prefer not to relate to all kinds of press speculation."

Yediot said that Rubinstein, in a summary of his talks, told the ministers that "chances for a far-reaching improvement (of the draft) are slim."

He also advised the cabinet ministers that Baker wants to include two Palestinians expelled from the occupied lands in the delegation for the Cairo meeting, despite Israel's demand that the delegates must come from the occupied lands.

Egypt has suggested that including people expelled from the occupied territories would make the talks more acceptable to the PLO, which has demanded it the Palestinian delegates.

In an interview on Israel Radio Friday, Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the prime minister's office, indicated that Israel was holding firm to its earlier

"It will have to be understood by all parties that Israel will discuss nothing but the election modalities," Ben-Aharon said.

He noted that the cabinet earlier rejected the idea of participation by Palestinians from outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the election.

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Strikes over ethnic rights of Turks spread in Bulgaria

SOFIA (Agencies) — Strikes and mass protests by Bulgarians opposed to religious freedom for ethnic Turks paralysed towns and cities across the country Friday.

The government warned Bulgarians they risked international isolation unless they dropped the campaign against the Country's 1.5 million Turkish minority.

What started as a token two-hour stoppage in the southern town of Kardzhali five days ago grew into a general strike that spread throughout the country.

Shops and factories closed in Kardzhali and the nearby town of Haskovo, as well as in Stara Zagora and Devnya, site of the country's biggest chemical plant.

Strikes, some total and others symbolic, were reported in several towns in the northeast, including Targovite, Sumen and the Black Sea resort of Varna.

There were protests also in Ruse near the border with Romania.

The capital Sofia was not affected but several thousand people, some of whom took part in a mass demonstration on Thursday, remained outside the national assembly building chanting anti-Turkish slogans and singing nationalist songs dating back to the days of the Ottoman era.

Tense relations among the Slavs, the estimated are million ethnic Turks and Muslims in Bulgaria boiled over into vocal, patriotic protests by ethnic Bulgarians objecting to a Dec. 29 decision on minority rights.

The Communist Party reversed the assimilation policy pursued by its ousted leader, Todor Zhivkov, and said ethnic Turks could use their own names and language and practice Muslim religious rites free of previous restrictions.

On Thursday, thousands of Bulgarians waving the red, white and green national flag and chanting "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians" protested outside the national assembly in Sofia.

Thousands rallied for five hours outside Communist Party headquarters in Shumen, where rail traffic was paralysed all afternoon, BTA said. In Silistra, students threatened a hunger strike against the ruling, it added.

The Defence Ministry meanwhile pledged that the southern border with Turkey was secure.

Turkey said Thursday that the protests could damage the prickly relations between the two nations.

The ministry said in a statement that it was responding to questions from "a number of citizens" worried about national security.

But, Foreign Ministry officials are hopeful that the meeting will pave the way for an eventual agreement and do not want to create difficulties for leaders in Sofia who reversed the forced assimilation policy.

Sanko Todorov, president of parliament, pledged on national television Friday evening that a new ethnic policy would be worked out to overcome "internationalism."

Bulgaria drew world criticism last May after Zhivkov granted

passports to ethnic Turks and an estimated 320,000 emigrated to Turkey, saying they feared persecution if they stayed in Bulgaria.

Turkey closed its borders.

About 50,000 Bulgarian Turks later returned, complaining about lack of jobs and proper housing in Turkey.

Slav nationalists have been

suspicious of the loyalties of the Bulgarian Turks and ethnic Bulgarian Muslims, known as Pomaks, since Bulgaria won independence in 1878 from the Ottoman empire after 500 years.

They demanded that the Dec. 29 decision be reversed and a referendum be held on ethnic rights.

The ruling Communists and the democratic opposition rejected the demands in a joint appeal for ethnic calm.

In Kardzhali, where almost half the 50,000 inhabitants are ethnic Turks, and in nearby Haskovo 25,000 people rallied under such slogans as "the central committee sold out Bulgaria."

Most of Kardzhali's population was reported on the streets and strikes shut down all enterprises and public transport. Reports reaching Sofia said both ethnic Bulgarians and what the state news agency BTA called "the Muslim population" staged different demonstrations, but no word of violence emerged.

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'National' bloc of 23 crystallises in Lower House

By Marwan M. Ghosh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the "national bloc" in the Lower House of Parliament said Saturday that the main goal of the 23-member parliamentary coalition was "to ensure the success and endurance of the democratic experiment in Jordan."

The bloc, which, according to several of its members, has been meeting in small groups for the past three weeks, is a faction of 23 deputies who have "no common ideological or political line."

"But, we all want the democratic experiment to succeed and that was why we gave a vote of confidence to the government of Mudar Badran," said Ajloun Deputy Issa Rimoni, one of the bloc's members. "Despite the reservations many of the bloc's members voiced, we, the national bloc, had agreed that we would vote as a coalition in favour of the government," he added.

Rimoni said that although the bloc gave its vote of confidence to the government, it reserved the right to withdraw confidence from any single member of the Cabinet "if we find the need to do so."

Despite the apparent hesitation of two of the bloc's spokesmen, deputies Abdulla Nsour and Mohammad Abu Alim, to announce the bloc's formation and its platform, its existence and its activities seem to have become de facto if not de jure.

Nsour, who has been named by Arabic dailies as the bloc's spokesman, declined again Saturday to make statements concerning the bloc's "parliamentary strategies" or confirm its membership list. "We will hold a press conference soon and reveal all there is to know about the bloc," Nsour told the Jordan Times.

Speaking during the Lower House's discussions last week on the government programme, Nsour said that the national bloc had made its comments on its desired policy changes through the speeches made by its members. He failed to say, however, who the members were.

However, other reported members of the bloc were willing to reveal more about the coalition's activities and membership after Saturday's Parliament session.

Rimoni told the Jordan Times that the coalition had agreed 1) to give a vote of confidence to the government, and 2) made consultations with the Muslim Brotherhood to "ensure the places of several national bloc members on the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) affairs committee," which was elected by the Lower House Saturday.

Five members of the national bloc and three members of the Muslim Brotherhood were elected to the 10-member committee. The other two belonged to the independent bloc and the democratic bloc respectively.

Another member of the national bloc who asked not to be named said that the coalition had held consultations and coordinated "moves" with other parliamentary blocs on a number of issues proposed to the legislature.

The bloc would be the fourth coalition formed in the 80-member assembly and would seem to be competing for strength of size — if not ideological conviction — with the largest bloc, the 24-member Muslim Brotherhood.

Members of the democratic and independent coalitions both conceded that they had made "indirect gestures to members of other blocs to get one of our people in on the ACC affairs committee." While the actual importance of the ACC committee remains to be seen, the voting cooperation among the blocs could be significant in future voting patterns on other issues.

Furthermore, the alleged "bloc voting" procedure that took place Saturday could have serious consequences for those deputies who have not "aligned" themselves with any bloc.

Three independent deputies who were nominated for the ACC committee Saturday failed to win a seat on the committee. The total number of nominations for the 10 seats was 13.

Although many of their comments touched upon similar issues, not all of the 23 deputies believed to be members of the "national bloc" seemed to be in agreement on the issue of the national charter, which, according to Deputy Taher Al Massi, "will overshadow the Constitution" and is "not necessary."

"We all have different opinions on certain issues and we certainly don't all agree with Deputy Massi on this issue, but in the end we will tend to vote as a bloc," said Rimoni referring to the charter issue.

Asked to confirm their membership in the bloc, Massi and several others said, "I guess so" after confirming that they had attended the bloc meetings.

Deputy Abu Alim said he was one of the four spokesmen for the national bloc, along with Nsour, Jamal Haddad and Hisham Sharabi. He gave the names of 22 out of the 23 members. They are as follows: Abdulla Nsour, Issa Rimoni, Nayef Hadid, Mohammad Abu Alim, Taher Al Massi, Abdulla Zreikat, Ata Shahwan, Saad Haddadin, Samir Kawar, Nayef Abu Tayeh, Jamal Haddad, Faisal Ben Jazi, Mohammad Muarrar, Jamal Khreisha, Sultan Adwan, Hisham Sharabi, Saad Sour, Salameh Ghweiri, Nawaf Khawaldeh, Mohammad Dardour, Ziad Schweich and Ahmad Annab.

The Muslim Brotherhood has a confirmed membership of 24 deputies. Dr. Abdul Latif Arabyat is its spokesman. The democratic bloc has 11 confirmed members. Deputy Fakhri Kawar is its spokesman. The independent bloc has eight members. No-one has been announced its official spokesman.

All blocs have stated that they are open to all parliamentarians if they wish to join.

The following are the members of the ACC Parliamentary Committee: Mohammad Dardour, Ata Al Shihwan, Ziyad Al Shweich, Samir Quwar, Muir Al Bustanji, Hamman Saif, Ibrahim Khreisat, Mohammad Fares Al Tazawneh, Dr. Mohammad Abu Fares and Issa Rimoni.

National carrier offers free Amman stop-over

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has launched a special stop-over package for its First and Business class passengers who are transiting via Amman. The programme, which runs until Dec. 31, 1990, was developed in the with Royal Jordanian's efforts to promote Jordan as a business centre and a tourist attraction, an RJ press release said.

In cooperation with the Amman Marriott Hotel, the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, and

Royal Tours, Royal Jordanian will extend to its First and Business class travellers a two-night stay free of charge at any one of the two hotels mentioned. In addition, and for a minimum fee, an optional package of services was prepared. With this plan, eligible passengers will be met at Queen Alia International Airport and transferred to/from their hotel. They can also enjoy an excursion tour to the ancient city of Jerash — The Pompeii of the Middle East.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Irish artist Conal McIntyre at the British Council.

FILMS

* A Czech film entitled "The Salty Sweets" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

* A feature film entitled "It Came Upon Midnight Clear" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Rains that hit Jordan over the past three days, though belated, have saved the Kingdom's 1989-1990 agricultural season, according to officials (File photo)

Rains save Jordan's agricultural season

AMMAN (J.T.) — The latest rains that fell in Jordan helped the Kingdom accumulate millions of cubic metres of water in reservoirs built to collect water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley region, and saved the country's agricultural season, Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said Saturday.

Altogether the dams, built in a number of locations, mostly in the northern and central regions, collected nearly 35.8 million cubic metres of water so far, Bani Hani noted in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency.

The recent rains prompted

JVA stations to stop pumping water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley, which also received sufficient amounts of rain water. JVA stations used to pump water from the reservoirs to water citrus trees in the valley in the absence of the rain, Bani Hani explained.

Bani Hani said about 2.4 million cubic metres of water flowed over the past few days into the

reservoir behind the King Talal Dam, raising its present storage to 23.5 million. He said the rain fall supplied 1.2 million cubic metres of water to Wadi Al Arab reservoir raising the level to 7.8 million cubic metres; 266,000 cubic metres flowed into Sharabi Dam to raise its reservoir to 1.6 million; Wadi Shuaib received 900,000 cubic metres, raising its

reserves to 1.2 million, and Khrain Dam received one million cubic metres, raising the present level to 1.7 million cubic metres.

According to Bani Hani, JVA has now started pumping water for domestic use at the rate of 1.4 cubic metres per second from Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley to population centres in the Amman region.

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Peace is a mirage

THERE ARE several indicators that Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is tightening the noose around the "peace process" and by all counts the process is now all but dead. Among the principal signs that the peace process has in fact reached a dead-end are the following: The return of Shamir's emissary Elyakim Rubinstein from Washington empty handed on arrangements for the projected meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; the Ezer Weizman crisis over his alleged contacts with the PLO; and the most recent travel restriction imposed on prominent Palestinian from leaving the West Bank. All these negative development came on the heel of the disclosure by Amnesty International that Shamir's government has been condoning and encouraging the killing of unarmed Palestinians in the occupied territories in order to strangle their intifada.

Under the prevailing circumstances the Palestinian people and the rest of the Arab World are entitled to a more straight talk about the prospects for peace in the Middle East. It is high time that the PLO and the Arab capitals declare out in the open that as long as Shamir is the Israeli leader who pulls the strings in Israel, the prospects for the resolution of the Palestinian conflict and the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts are nil. It would also help if Washington makes such an open secret more exposed so that the whole world would hear it better and take note of. At least the Arab side would then be able to take stock of their options and act accordingly. But to continue to act as if peace is around the corner is, to say the least, deceiving the Arabs, be they the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians or others. It is therefore high time to call a spade a spade and start facing the facts as harsh and difficult as they might be. Otherwise the continuous talk about the mirage peace process as if it is real would only serve as some kind of opium to drug the Arab peoples into believing that the peaceful resolution of their conflicts with Israel is reachable. It would be such a relief to know and realise that peace with Israel is unattainable under the prevailing Arab and international circumstances, not to mention the Israeli circumstances, that the Arab vision about the future can then become that much more coherent and clear. There is no sense in continuing to harbour false illusions about striking a deal with Israel when there is none. The Arab peoples are entitled to be told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and after twenty two years of fruitless efforts now is the time for the parties to be more candid with one another.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday tackled the celebrations of the Iraqi Armed Forces to mark their anniversary and said the anniversary this year follows a great victory for Iraq in the Gulf war in defence of Arab soil. The paper said the Arab masses take deep pride in the Iraqi Armed Forces for their courage and their sacrifice over the past years to repel Iranian aggression and to protect Arab land. King Hussein's visit to Baghdad to share with the Iraqi people their celebrations is a manifestation of Jordan's support for the Iraqi brothers and a show of solidarity in their continued determination to protect Arab soil, the paper noted. It said that Jordan has been a staunch supporter of Iraq's endeavours to repel aggression and is now sharing with the Iraqi people their anniversary. Indeed Jordan has been calling for a unity of Arab ranks and solidarity with Iraq and is a staunch believer in intrinsic Arab force that could deter any aggression directed against any Arab country, the paper said. The strength of the Iraqi Armed Forces is a source of pride for all of us because it is a strength for all Arabs and is a guarantee for the future, the paper added. It said that Jordan's endeavours to initiate the Arab Cooperation Council which groups Iraq along with Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan is another indication of the Kingdom's efforts to fulfil the aspirations of Arab people for unity.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday expresses belief that Israel will find it difficult to pull out from the any part of the occupied Arab lands in three years from now in view of the great flow of Jewish immigrants converging on it from Eastern Europe, Russia and Ethiopia. Saudi Fahmawi says that backed by the United States militarily, economically and diplomatically, Israel is in a strong position to disregard the ideas of other nations for peace and to mock the international community's condemnation for its atrocities in occupied Palestine. The writer recalls former President Jimmy Carter during his visit to Israel in 1979 when he said that Israel has a unique relationship with the United States deeply rooted in American people's beliefs and religion. The writer says that the United States will continue to provide assistance to the Jewish state regardless of its criminal actions and its violation of all human principles and international laws. Washington's craving for imposing its will and its domination on the Middle East with the help of Israel is now being boosted thanks to the collapse of Communism and the very favourable relations between East and West, says Fahmawi. He believes that time is on Israel's side as long as the Arabs lack the power to impose their will.

Al Dostar daily said Saturday that King Hussein's personal participation in Iraqi Armed Forces day anniversary celebration is a clear demonstration of Jordan's true solidarity with the Iraqi people. Jordan was firm in its support for Iraq during the eight year war with Iran and had been involved in mobilising Arab countries efforts and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their efforts to repel Iranian aggression. Iraq has served as a shield providing protection to the Arab nation and the Arabs take pride in the Iraqi Armed Forces endeavours during the war and in peace time when Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein extends a hand of peace to the Iranian nation, said the paper. It said that Saddam Hussein's new peace bid offered to Iran reflected the Arab nation's true orientation to live in peace with all its neighbours.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan's foreign debts — whose responsibility is it?

THE ORDINARY citizen listened with interest to what was said by some members of the Parliament about the responsibility of Mudar Badran's previous administrations for the heavy indebtedness. The citizen then listened to the response of the prime minister who placed the responsibility on the shoulders of Zaid Al Rifai's administration. After the overheated speeches were over, and the psychological effect faded away, the citizen was still wondering: Which administration was responsible and to what extent.

I am not going to make a sweeping judgement, because the Parliament's financial committee will examine the two sets of figures to find out the truth. It may call on some independent experts to make a testimony. I would be very glad to appear in front of the committee to shed some light, being almost the only voice which kept warning against indulgence in foreign indebtedness during the last ten years. At least sixty-five articles were written to warn against the disaster. The officials at the time described my column as destructive and dismissed my campaign as confidence shaking.

The figures and statistics used in the two opposite stories were substantially the same. They were derived from the same sources. The differences stem from the approach, the manner of presentation, and the stress on some words and phrases to make the desired influence on the audience.

Leaving rhetoric aside, we can look into indebtedness in two

methods. The first method concentrates on the outstanding debts at a given date, which means total amounts withdrawn less total repayments. This method is suitable to measure actual indebtedness at a certain moment. According to this method, Jordan's external debt reached \$6.5 billion by the end of 1988, and rose to \$7.3 billion by the end of 1989 as a result of capitalisation of interest as part of rescheduling and the net developmental borrowing.

The second method accounts for all the committed debt irrespective of whether it was withdrawn in total or in part. The debt according to this method occurs upon the signature of the credit agreement or the contract to buy on credit. The utilisation of the credit may take place during a following year or a following administration. This method is suitable to identify political responsibility for the debt. The official responsible for the debt is the one who committed the country not the official at whose time the commitment was implemented. According to this method we were told that total debt by the end of 1989 was \$8.5 billion according to the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, or \$9.7 billion according to an opposition member of Parliament, and \$11.7 billion according to the prime minister.

Most likely the lower figure is the correct one, and the higher figures resulted from including financial commitments that did arise between cancellations on before utilisation, or as a result of completely ignoring repayments and simply accumulating the gross debt incurred irrespective of repayments. In the later case

the figures are meaningless because part of the debt was incurred simply to replace another debt with better terms and conditions.

The point remains that the contradicting figures of the member of Parliament and the prime minister can be reconciled and the differences explained.

It is worth mentioning however, that the prime minister did not try to deny the responsibility of previous administrations including his own, that ruled during the last fifteen years or so. According to his version of the picture, ex-prime minister Rifai is responsible for 52 per cent of the debt. Granted that this estimate is accurate, then the previous governments until 1984 were responsible for 48 per cent of the total debt or \$3.9 billion. This figure puts Jordan on top of the list of debtor countries in the world relative to population and second only to Israel, as we have pointed out in April 1985. In other words Jordan has crossed the red line as of 1982. By 1985 it was hopelessly debt ridden. The following administration doubled a debt already beyond the capacity of the Jordanian economy.

One more point that should be brought to the analysis to render the figures meaningful and comparable: First the value of the dollar in 1987 is double its value in 1988, and the size of the economy in 1978 is half its size in 1988.

All the administrations that were in office during the last 15 years were responsible. The question is how each administration justifies its over-borrowing in the then prevailing circumstances, and to account for the proper use of it.

Nigeria reconciled 20 years after Biafran war

By Naomi Wimborne
Reuter

UMUAHIA, Nigeria — Twenty years ago the world was shocked by images of starving children in Biafra, a breakaway enclave in eastern Nigeria where the Ibo people waged a doomed battle for independence from 1967 to January 1970.

Hundreds of thousands of people died — some estimates say more than a million — in a conflict the International Red Cross at the time called the biggest emergency since World War II.

The wounds have largely healed, but some Nigerians say black Africa's most populous country is still in search of a sense of nationhood.

"Nigeria remains in essence an amorphous mass of individuals but pretending to be a people," former rebel leader General Emeka Ojukwu wrote in a book published last July.

There has been a remarkable reconciliation since the war, symbolised by Ojukwu's return from 13 years of exile in 1982. He now lives in a fine house in the best part of Lagos.

But for much of the war, Voice of Biafra radio broadcasts Ojukwu's defiant secessionist message from an underground bunker in Umunna, a small town in modern Imo state which was the rebel base until they were bombed out in April 1969.

Renovated and housing memorabilia of the conflict, the bunker now forms part of a new war museum dedicated to national unity.

The leading protagonists, neatly framed in black and white, stare at each other across a con-

crete stairway leading down into it.

Inside hang harrowing images of starving, skeletal babies in besieged Biafra — images which wrung hearts across the globe as the war dragged on.

"We believed we had no alternative. It was die fighting or give up and be massacred," Ogonnaya Ukeloma, a member of Ojukwu's wartime inner cabinet, told Reuters.

But the genocide the Ibo's feared when their shrinking, besieged domain eventually collapsed in January 1970 — beaten by the forces of the Lagos-based federal military government headed by General Yakubu Gowon — did not happen.

"I thought the federal commander who tracked me down with my family had come to shoot us. Instead he brought a peace message and the first beer I'd had in two years," said Ukeloma.

Ojukwu, who declined to be interviewed about the war, is not alone in believing that genuine unity among Nigeria's 100 million people is still elusive.

"We fought the war unity, but in fact it alerted people to their roots," said Ray Ekpuk, editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, a member of a non-Ibo minority in the east.

Awareness of ethnic group, state of origin, and above all religion, inflames conflicts over access to education and employment, and looms over the present military government's programme for a return to democracy by 1992.

"Nigeria is still basically a geographical expression, not a cohesive unit," said Ekpuk, echoing a comment by a leading

Nigerian nationalist before independence.

The country, plagued by a battle for power at the centre between three ethnically and religiously diverse regions, seems destined to fall apart at the seams barely six years after independence from Britain in 1960.

Northern Muslims clung to political power at the expense of Western educated southern Christians whose dominance they feared.

Tensions exacerbated by widespread nepotism and corruption exploded in January 1966, when a group of young, mainly-Ibo army officers struck at the northern-dominated government, wiping out the cream of its civilian and military leadership.

The supreme commander of the armed forces Major-General John Aguiyi-Irons, by coincidence an Ibo, tried to restore order, but retaliated by outraged northern Muslims against what they saw as an Ibo coup and indiscriminate.

"They pursued Ibos and killed them like chickens," said Oliver Nwaike, an Ibo domestic servant in Lagos at the time.

Before he could join the exodus of terrified Ibos trekking home, he hid in the attic of his European employer's home, not daring to turn to eastern region II.

Ironsi was killed in a second coup in July 1966, and a few months later young Ibos like Nwaike, answering a call from

the charismatic and uncompromising eastern region military Governor Ojukwu, were wearing Biafra's rising sun symbol on their arms and fighting for independence.

Ojukwu decreed a unification. The north revolted and seized the central government. In the east, I resisted," Ojukwu said in his recent book.

Resistance, for the 9.10 million Ibos including refugees from all over Nigeria, meant an increasingly desperate battle against superior federal fire-power and looming starvation.

Support for Gowon from strange bedfellows Britain and the Soviet Union outweighed the mainly moral backing Biafra received from France, China and four African countries.

Ever resourceful, the Biafrans manufactured miniature oil refineries to turn local crude oil into fuel.

They cannibalised trains and scrap vehicles to make armoured cars, and created a series of deadly weapons including mines and flying bombs.

But they were heavily outnumbered and undermined by hostility from minority tribes in the east.

International peace conferences failed to end the war but 32 months of resistance took its toll and on Jan. 12, 1970, they sued for peace. The formal surrender took place on Jan. 15.

Ibos and non-Ibos alike share the sentiments expressed by Ismail Isa, managing director of the Democrat newspaper based in the northern city of Kaduna.

"We've seen where civil war leads, and we never want to see it again," he said.

LETTERS Hurting Aqaba's image

Dear Sir:

I was really surprised to read the article "Tourism operators warn of Aqaba disaster, urge action" in the Sunday, Dec. 31, edition of the paper. We were in Aqaba for a week in September and really enjoyed it. We were told that the hotels were fully booked from October to April. We asked in several hotels because we were trying to get accommodations for a friend who had family arriving from abroad.

Naturally, I assumed that no one should even think about going to Aqaba or suggesting Aqaba to friends from abroad during this high season unless one planned very far in advance. What a shame. It is possible that all the self-proclaimed popularity of this place is actually hurting it.

I have a cousin in the U.S. who is in the travel business. She is interested in Jordan. I wrote her about what I had heard in Aqaba (all hotels fully booked from October to May). She also wanted information on Jordan, and I told her that she could write to the RJ office in New York for literature and information. Now I read in your article: "RJ offices abroad can only help reserve seats for tourists, but lack qualified staff to help market Jordan's tourist attractions."

Barbara El-Baroudi.
Amman - Jordan

Peace is a distant dream in troubled S. African township

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

INANDA, South Africa — During the bright and sunny days, the lush green hills and streets full of laughing children give a deceptive sense of serenity to Inanda.

But during the sultry nights, the township becomes battleground in a black-on-black power struggle that is three years old and still rages out of control.

Supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF) a nationwide anti-apartheid coalition, and Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu group, have been killing one another at a furious pace since late 1986, leaving an estimated 2,500 dead in April 1987.

The violence, which began around the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg, has spread across Natal and is most intense in Inanda, just outside the port city of Durban.

"There's no way to avoid the fighting. Everyone is involved," said Thulani Ncwane, 19, a supporter of the front.

"Even if you are peaceful, you must defend your home against attack," said Ncwane, whose chin is scarred from a bullet wound. His younger brother was less fortunate — he was killed a year ago.

More than 160 blacks died in factional violence near Durban in December, the highest monthly toll yet, according to a monitoring group from the anti-apartheid Democratic Party. The second-worst month was November, when 62 died.

The Inandas, rows of burned-out houses sit incongruously on gently rolling hills. Frightened residents seek sanctuary in chur-

ches and the homes of their white employers and friends. Young men gather in small groups to patrol their neighbourhoods through the night.

"The political temperature just keeps rising," said Roy Ainslie, head of the unrest monitoring group. "The legal situation has collapsed and the leadership on both sides is not active in controlling its members."

Natal's conflict began heating up in 1987 as the rest of the country's black townships began cooling off after two years of nationwide turbulence.

Recent reforms by President F.W. de Klerk, such as allowing opposition rallies, have not eased the tension in Natal. Most combatants are in their teens and early 20s, and their focus is largely on the local power struggle rather than national political issues.

However, a government official who requested anonymity said surveys indicate Buthelezi has minimal support aside from his fellow Zulus, who account for about 7 million of South Africa's 28 million blacks.

A well-advertised Buthelezi is the 30,000 people to a 15,000-seat stadium in Soweto, the sprawling township outside Johannesburg that is home to 2.5 million blacks. Many spectators were based in Kwazulu, hundreds of kilometres away.

"Black-on-black violence (has) become uglier and uglier and has now got about as ugly as it can get," Buthelezi told the rally. "Without (black) unity we can forget about ever being able to destroy the white oppression."

Both sides have called repeatedly for peace, but talks broke off in August. Both groups concede they have large numbers of young supporters they cannot

control.

Frustrated residents have taken the law into their own hands, forming "defence committees" and "people's courts." One punishment handed down by informal courts is "nude modelling," whereby the accused is stripped and marched through township streets.

Police have

Features

Water storage jar — North Jordan

The hiding pot

By Jim Mason

UNTIL THE LUXURY of piped water first appeared in the villages of north Jordan, the historical Zir was heavily relied on as an essential method of storing water. Shaped like amphoras, they stand above the ground on metal tripods, fitted to accommodate their tapering form.

It is common to see them with wooden lids to keep out the dust and sand that blows frequently. Water inside them evaporates slowly, leaching through the unglazed clay walls to produce a cooling effect on both pot and contents. They are less used now, except in agricultural contexts, or where water is difficult to "pipe."

This wheel-thrown water jar has a predecessor of far more interest, hand-made by women and notable since it points to very basic ways of pot-making using days that required readaptation.

One of these potters is a woman called Zahara Yousef, who like many of her contemporaries, learned to make these large jars when she married.

"When I was a young girl growing up in Kafr Ulma, I had no idea about pottery. When I married, my husband brought me here to live in Rikha. We needed something to store oil in. At that time there were about five ladies in the village, famous for making pottery. I went to these ladies and asked them to help me make a pot."

The reasons that motivated Zahara to make pots is typical. Other reasons cited by other women include, necessity either financial or domestic, or because their craft activities helped to enhance their poor lifestyles, bringing some luxury into the home. It's not uncommon to discover that people made rugs, or wove fabric as well as pottery.

These activities were carried out by the women, whilst the men worked wood, producing bowls, spoons and wooden mortars, used in pounding coffee beans, as

well as other implements connected with agricultural work.

Pottery making became established in this region sometime well before the turn of this century, although nobody is exactly sure when. Information comes from memories of people who are generally aged between fifty and seventy, people whose mothers or close relatives were more actively involved.

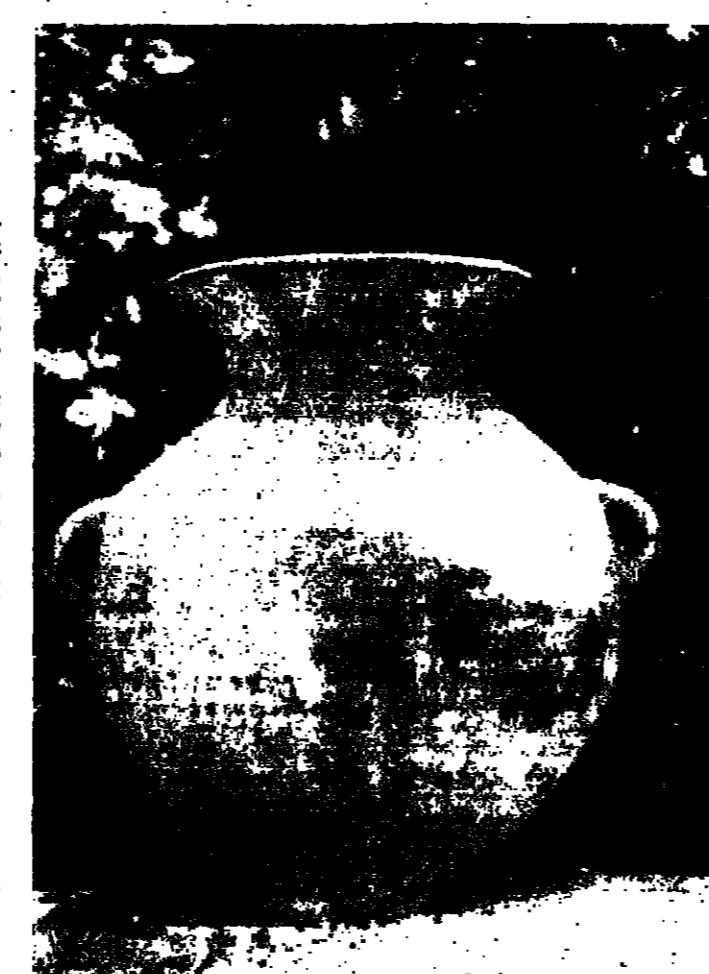
In some villages a bride, unlike Zahara Yousef, was required to bring with her Habibi into the household as part of her dowry. Many families prized their water jars, keeping them for long periods. A particular family in Husn, a village in the north, boast of having kept them for fifty years. They had possessed two, but one of them had perished when a part of the house had collapsed. (sic)

In general, the form of the water jars remain the same, but the shapes vary according to the particular idiosyncrasies of their makers, as do the simple, and at times, crude, patterns adopted. Decoration was confined to either slip-painting impressing, or incising.

Circular rosettes, tree of life patterns, and in Muslim and Christian villages, crosses were applied with thin strips, and impressed onto the body of the pots. Fragments of shell, or broken ceramic plate were also used, set into the rims, or the outer edges of the handles as an extra decorative feature.

Burnishing and polishing existed as a decorative feature as well as a method of sealing the surfaces. Organic stains made from the boiled roots of oak trees were widely used as well. Stain was either rubbed into the surface, or the jars were left immersed in a bath and allowed to soak for up to three days.

This resulted in a lovely, rich colour tint, which enhanced the burnishing, after it, was polished. The pink, buff and red firing clays showing pleasingly with warmth under these various surface treatments. Such methods were only found in cases where the jars had originally been made in Suf, a village laying north of Jerash. Techniques and methods of manufacture were kept simple, both in shape and overall technical treatment,



through the absence of added coils etcetera seem to be successful. They are the most aesthetically pleasing, pointing to the fact that once having developed a confidence with their materials their makers concerned themselves with the art of their work.

In general, potters learned by trial and error when they added minerals to re-adapt their low firing clays. Used alone, the surface clay deposits are unsuitable, and prone to vitrify at temperatures above a thousand Centigrade. The addition of temper varies in composition and type, some potters added crushed quartz, others added decomposed basalt whilst others crushed and ground old potsherds. Plasticity was regained in some areas by using a surface soil, "clayey" in texture and high in iron content.

Earth + basalt

Ethnological study has revealed two broad trends in methods of adding temper, depending on geographical location. Potters working in the villages of the Northern Plain worked with blends of earth and basalt, whilst those working in the hillier regions further south used marls and grog.

Details of these trends have been published by Merschen (Berytus, vol XXX 111, 1985). She says, "Clay composition for the Suf pots contain grog, mixed equally with marl — a mixture of clay and carbonate material, and is obtained from a locally well known water source. The extent to which this was considered a popular clay was important, since women as far away as Satana and Kuf Hall used to dig their marls at Suf."

The clay sources were important enough to spend much time and effort, on the potters behalfs when supplies were needed. A description of an occasion when clay was collected gives us a rich insight into the life and times of these potters. Collecting clay was a social occasion, as well as a necessary chore. Several women



The famous pots

would gather together early in the morning, usually in the late spring. Together with their donkeys, digging implements and food, they would set out sometimes to clay deposits which could range up to several hours travel.

The evening before they were due to go, the group would meet at one of the houses, where they would discuss the following day's journey, after which, chatter would subside into reminiscing about the past, about other occasions when similar trips had occurred.

As dawn broke, and after all the ladies had arrived and arranged their various belongings onto the donkeys, they would set out. Here was a time away from the routine of family life. The women would be in a light mood, gossiping or breaking into song. Some of the older women, who still dress in their colourfully embroidered black gowns remember these trips as a time of happiness and levity, times when either necessity, or the making of a marriage gift would motivate them to make their pots, a time of welcome release, a time of meeting other women, of catching up on the gossip.

The pots were all made slowly, a bit each day, using coil and slab techniques, using up to forty

kilos of clay plus grog and other additions including goats hair and chopped straw. The clay was only mixed with water after the total bulk had been crushed with a heavy stone, cleaned and served and ground to a fine powder. The hair and chopped straw were added before mixing with water. It was usual for one water jar to take up to two weeks to complete, after which it was allowed to dry in the sun.

The firing process was lengthy, taking up to four days. Two or three of the large jars would be placed on their sides in a pit dug about a metre into the ground. Hot embers were left in the pit onto which the jars were placed. Fuel used for the firings was simple. A mixture of twigs and brushwood being mixed with dried sheep dung to make the initial fire in the pit. Generous amounts of dung would then be placed around the pots gradually covering them over. The clamp would then be fired by lighting it with a combustible material.

When I was present at one of these firings benzene was used. In this manner the kiln would be basically "firing" from the inside of the clamp, whilst the firing from the outside was a precautionary measure.

Piles of dung reached to about

a half metre above the pots, stoking was continued throughout the process. Up to two hundred kilos of dung was used. Temperatures attained by this method are generally low, but according to research somewhere in the region of between 700-900°C. would be estimated. Rye, gives a recorded temperature of 750 deg C for two long firings, using similar methods in Palestine. According to the potters their rule of a small fired jar was one which possessed a "ring" when tapped, which seems to be a general rule of thumb for potters worldwide.

This brief pottery making tradition, lasting no more than two hundred years at most, has left behind rich insights into the way people adapted clays and used available materials in a broad way, for a variety of purposes. The water jar, amongst all other types of pots expresses this limited tradition at its best, demonstrating an intelligent use of materials and therefore in my opinion, placing the work alongside other village pottery traditions. Through making the pots in the way that they did, and in the circumstances that they were made, a graphic picture is offered to us which may well reflect the methods used by the first potters in this region.

Namibia's independence: A blank page to be filled

By Jerome Koeklin
and this is the first in a two-part series on Namibia.

WINDHOEK, Namibia — The excitement has slowly died down in Namibia after the country's independence elections that were held last November. Now hard at work, the newly-elected delegates are busy drafting a constitution.

This is no simple task. Marxist South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) which fought a 23-year guerrilla war to free Namibia of South African domination earned only 11 of the 72 seats in the constituent assembly. Having failed to obtain the two thirds majority that would have allowed it to draft a constitution without the support of other parties, SWAPO is now working with them to reach a compromise on such questions as to whether Namibia should have a bi-cameral or single chamber system, and on the intricacies of true democracy with several parties participating in the process.

Optimists say the new constitution will be ready by February. More conservative estimates are for April. Meanwhile, South Africa's Administrator General Louis Piensar remains responsible for the affairs of the country, and people are waiting to see what the future holds.

Among them is Mike Cowley, 21, public relations manager of CDM, a diamond mining company and a subsidiary of De Beers, the South African giant. CDM has exclusive mining rights over the diamond mines of southern Namibia until the year 2010. The first diamond in the region was found in 1908, and in 1983 CDM extracted 16 million carats of ore.

A former journalist who worked as the bureau chief of a South African press group in Windhoek, Cowley joined CDM in 1978. Following are excerpts of a recent interview, during which he discussed the political and economic situation in Namibia as well as prospects for private companies, including CDM.

Question: What political party would CDM like to see holding the reins?
Answer: "We don't give support to any party, either morally or financially. I would say that we support principles also upheld by most political parties. Generally speaking we would like to see a democratic, multi-party form of government. We are sceptical about the establishment of a socialist system and would prefer either

a free market economy or a mixed economy which fits better an African society."

Q.: How will independence influence Namibia's economy?

A.: "The new government will have to negotiate with the mining companies — including CDM — to work out new contracts for diamond mining. In fact, Sam Nujoma, the SWAPO leader, has already met with CDM officials. We are ready to negotiate with whatever government emerges. Of course, we will have to determine what percentage is held by the government and what percentage is held by the De Beers group. But we wish to continue mining for diamonds here because we have the means, the technology and the capital to do so. However, at this point, we are paying 70 per cent of profits in taxes to the Namibian government, which is pretty high, so I don't think the government should raise the taxes in any substantial way."

Q.: What will be SWAPO's role?
A.: "Although SWAPO enjoys widespread support around the

country, it has its weaknesses: most of its leaders, including Sam Nujoma, have spent decades in exile and have only just returned. Things have changed a great deal in Namibia in the meantime. Also, on the diplomatic level SWAPO has managed to gain international recognition, particularly in the United Nations, but it was never very successful militarily. South African troops contained the guerrillas in southern Angola where they had their camps. And from a political point of view SWAPO leaders have no experience at all, which is not the case for the DTA party (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a coalition of African groupings) because it has participated in the country's political process for years."

Q.: SWAPO's leaders often talk about the need for economic reconstruction, redistribution of land and wealth and the diversification of the economy. Are you in favour of restructuring?
A.: "I think there is a need for diversification. The country relies too heavily on raw materials. It produces and exports minerals

(about 80 per cent of total exports) mostly to Europe and the United States. It produces livestock which is mostly exported to South Africa. The fishing industry based around Walvis Bay is an important resource (potentially Namibia has one of the richest fisheries in the world) but it is run by South African companies. Another good prospect is to develop agriculture in the north with the irrigation of arid areas."

"Diversifying won't be easy but contrary to what happened to many African nations at the eve of independence, Namibia has adequate resources to feed its people and riches that could be developed relatively fast. Namibia has gained independence with an infrastructure that is almost intact; very little was destroyed by war and the country's economy is doing well."

Q.: What factors induced South Africa to accept Namibia's independence?
A.: "No other topic was so often discussed at the United Nations. The Pretoria government was under growing pressure, and the nation certainly did not enjoy being pilloried, so the government felt there was something to be gained by accepting the independence process."

Q.: What are the benefits?
A.: "First of all to stop being criticised by everyone. Secondly, it may be a way for South Africa to come out of isolation and play

a more important role in the region. Finally, South Africa itself is undergoing reforms... and with the Namibia problem solved it has more money to spend on its own reforms."

Q.: Are you optimistic about Namibia's future?

A.: "I am optimistic by nature. I think the government that will take shape will have an easier time managing the country because it will represent the aspirations of the majority of the people. However, there will be difficulties, for example unemployment (some 30 per cent of the active population is unemployed), plus the return of 40,000 Namibian refugees. A lot will depend on the government's ability to get a grip on things and forget past internal differences... the economy must be diversified, large numbers of people must receive training, and illiteracy must be eradicated (about 60 per cent of the population is illiterate). Independence is a step forward towards a more mature and determined society."

industrialised state with a large urban population; it looks as though the country may move towards a federal, decentralised system."

Q.: What influence can the independence of Namibia have on the reform process in South Africa?

A.: "If it has any impact, it will only be socially. As you know, the more radical forms of apartheid were abolished in Namibia at the end of the 1970s. The way in which these changes came about certainly influenced South African blacks. But politically, these are two very different countries, largely for demographic reasons. The population of Namibia is 1.3 million with a population density of 1.5 inhabitants per square kilometer (compared to 18 inhabitants/km² in Africa as a whole)."

"Meanwhile the population of South Africa is 34.1 million... the only truly effective political structure for Namibia lies in a central government and the 'one man, one vote' principle. South Africa, on the other hand, is an

industrialised state with a large

urban population; it looks as though the country may move towards a federal, decentralised system."

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Rensburg beats Steeb, Lendl downs Pernfors

NEWCASTLE, New South Wales (R) — South African Christo van Rensburg could wrap up the Roche Racquet Resort International tennis classic on Sunday after scoring his second victory of the Round Robin event at Salamanca Bay on Saturday.

Van Rensburg, the world 27th seed, beat West German Carsten Steeb 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 in 90 minutes to be the only player in the four-day tournament with two victories.

On Sunday van Rensburg plays Mikael Pernfors from Sweden, who was beaten on Saturday by world number one Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, despite a back injury, beat Pernfors 6-4, 6-2 in 73 minutes to stand in second position in the tournament.

He still has a chance to retain the classic title he won at the Roche Resort last year.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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BLACK DAY FOR CARELESS PLAY
Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K Q 4
▼ J 7
♦ 10 9 6 5 3
♦ A 10

WEST
♦ 9 3
♦ 10 9 8 6 4
♦ K J 7 2
♦ 8 6

EAST
♦ 10 7 6 5 2
♦ 5 3 2
♦ 4

SOUTH
♦ A J
▼ A K Q
♦ A Q 8
♦ K Q 7 3 2

The bidding:

South West North East

3 NT Pass 5 NT Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Don't let a simple contract trip you up just because it looks as if it's unbeatable. One little quirk of distribution could jeopardize the result unless you take adequate precautions.

There are still many who are comfortable with an opening bid of three no trump to show a balanced hand of 25-27 points. With 10 points and a five-card suit, North invited a grand slam with his jump to five no trump. However, South settled for a small slam since he held:

Lendl has one win, and was beaten by van Rensburg on Friday, but a straight sets win against Steeb on Sunday would keep him in contention.

Van Rensburg has to win only one set against Pernfors on Sunday to take the title.

Van Rensburg won on Saturday in windy conditions.

"I come from the second windiest city in the world of Port Elizabeth and I love these conditions," van Rensburg said.

He broke Steeb twice in the first set but dropped one serve himself for a 6-3 first set win then blamed an over-ruling by umpire Warren Costello for losing the second set 6-4.

The call came when van Rensburg was down 1-3 but it would have given him a break back to make the score 2-3 instead of 1-4.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Macari accused of illegal betting

LONDON (R) — Former Manchester United and Scotland forward Lou Macari faced a possible lifetime soccer ban on Saturday after being accused of unauthorised betting by the Football Association (FA). The FA took action against Macari after a British newspaper alleged that in January 1988, while he was manager of Swindon Town, he backed the club to lose against Newcastle United in a cup match. Newcastle won the game 5-0. The people newspaper said Swindon chairman Brian Hillier was paid £4,000 (\$6,300) from the bet. An FA spokesman said Macari and Hillier were accused of breaching a rule which forbids players and officials from betting on matches, except by taking part in authorised football pools in competitions. Neither Hillier nor Macari, who now manages West Ham, made any comment on the FA accusations. They both have 14 days to respond to the charges. The FA spokesman said there was no suggestion that Macari, Hillier or Swindon fixed the result of the game against Newcastle. The FA can impose indefinite suspensions if its commission of inquiry reaches a guilty verdict in the case.

The call came when van Rensburg was down 1-3 but it would have given him a break back to make the score 2-3 instead of 1-4.

The call came when van Rensburg was down 1-3 but it would have given him a break back to make the score 2-3 instead of 1-4.

Dinamo Bucharest to change name

ZURICH (R) — Dinamo Bucharest, the soccer team associated with Romania's hated secret police, may be allowed to change their name yet continue to play in the European Cup Winners' Cup. The European Football Union (UEFA) was quoted by the Swiss news agency ATS on Friday as saying that Dinamo's desire to change name was exceptional, an "unforeseen eventuality," and its competition committee would meet to rule on the issue. Newspaper reports from Romania said Dinamo, wishing to rid themselves of links with the secret police loyal to executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, wanted to revert to their original name of Unirea Tricolor which they had until the communists took power in 1948.

Two years ago, when Beckenbauer was coach of the national under-21 squad to the world championship final. Millions of soccer fans in the Federal Republic of Germany are hoping Netzer's words will prove prophetic.

Vogts, 43, is taking over from Franz Beckenbauer next summer, after the World Cup tournament in Italy, as national team manager of the German Football Association (DFB), the largest sports association in the world.

"There won't be many changes," said Vogts when DFB president Hermann Neuberger broke the not unexpected news. "We have a young squad, the best for years. There won't be a clean sweep this time." All the present squad except sweeper Klaus Augenthaler of Bayern Munich have been members of Bert Vogts' under-21 crew.



Berti, on left, is to take over from 'Kaiser Franz' after the World Cup in Italy.

Beckenbauer steps down, Berti Vogts steps in

FRANKFURT — "What Bert Vogts is doing is a blessing for German soccer," says Günter Netzer, who used to play alongside each other for 20 years, but they are poles apart in character and appeal. Beckenbauer cuts an elegant figure and is as respectfully known by the fans as "Kaiser Franz."

Vogts is a hard-working terrier who has earned respect but not admiration. Beckenbauer's departure is a serious blow to German soccer, but I think Bert Vogts is the right man to take his place," says Lothar Matthäus, team captain.

"Everything is running smoothly. It has been a marvelous time. I'm no longer needed," says Beckenbauer, who took the team over five years ago when it was in dire straits and has completely remodelled it, making it much younger.

Now the German team has qualified for the World Cup in Italy. Beckenbauer, 45, faces an uphill task: German soccer fans, as always, have great hopes of a World Cup win.

Multi-million dollar Lewis-Johnson matchup

RALEIGH (R) — Carl Lewis' business manager said Tuesday he was discussing the possibility with at least six groups of a multi-million-dollar race in September between the two-time U.S. Olympic champion and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

"The lowest offer — and the latest round — has been \$1 million for Carl and the highest has been six million," Joe Douglas, Lewis' business agent, told Reuters by telephone from California. "But I don't know how substantial any of the offers are."

Three of the groups are from the United States, two from Spain and one from the Netherlands, he said. The race could gross more than \$10 million, Douglas said he had been sold.

"It would be the event of the year," he said.

The rematch probably would take place a few days after Johnson regains his eligibility on September 25, Douglas said.

Johnson, who crushed Lewis in a stirring 100 metres final at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, was suspended for two years by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) after testing positive for steroids at the 1988 race. He also was stripped of his gold medal and will lose the 100 metres world record, which he set in 1987, to Lewis later this month because of admitted drug use.

Lewis won four gold medals in

the 1984 Olympics and successfully defended his titles in the 100 metres and long jump at the 1988 games.

Talks continue over where the race will be held, Douglas said.

"As far as viewing the race (on television) in the States, Japan would be a good market and North America would be a good place," he said. "I don't know if the Johnson people would want it in America, but I would. Europe would be my third choice. But you go where the best situation is. Wherever they have it is fine, so long as it is promoted well."

Britain's daily Express reported last month that U.S. boxing promoter Bob Arum had lined up a \$3.2-million race be-

F.A. Cup:

Northampton humbles Coventry

LONDON (R) — Coventry City, English Football Association (FA) Cup winners in 1987, fell to lowly opposition at the first hurdle for the second year in a row when they lost 1-0 at third division Northampton on Saturday.

Following first division sides Wimbledon, the cup winners in 1988, and Luton, thrashed 4-1 at Brighton, also crashed out in the third round as first and second division clubs joined the survivors from the first two rounds.

Wimbledon, who beat West Bromwich Albion in the third round two years ago on their way to winning the trophy, lost 2-0 to the same second division rivals.

League leaders Liverpool failed to breach third division

Swansea's defense and face a replay with the third division side at Anfield on Wednesday after a 0-0 draw.

League champions Arsenal were among only three first division sides to win as Chelsea and Norwich fought back to scrape draws against lowly opposition and Aston Villa were held 2-2 in an exciting match at Blackburn Rovers.

Southampton spoiled Tottenham Hotspur manager Terry Venables' 47th birthday by beating fellow first division Spurs 3-1 in London.

The only minor league survivors are Darlington, who held fourth division Cambridge to a 0-0 draw.

U.S. invites 28 players in preparation for WC

U.S. team, good for third on the all-time scoring list behind Ricky Davis (9) and Willie Roy (8). Goulet was dropped from the national squad last May after a scoring slump.

"Brent just didn't play well for whatever reason," Gansler said Tuesday from his home in Milwaukee. "When Brent doesn't score, he doesn't really add a heck of a lot of other things to the team. He is not the type of player who will make the others around him be better players."

Goulet has been playing with the Tacoma Stars of the major indoor soccer league in the United States and has scored nine goals in 15 games. It's not yet clear whether he'll be able to accept the invitation.

"We'll be making a decision in the next couple of days whether to release him," Tacoma spokesman Mike Vandenkolk said.

The core of the team that helped the United States qualify for the World Cup will be at the training camp.

not identify any of the groups by name.

Douglas said talks also were taking place with people who worked for a U.S. television company.

"We would definitely want to bring in pay-per-view (cable) television," he said.

At least five or six athletes would be involved in the 100-metre race, Douglas said.

"And wherever it is held, I don't want it to be a side show or a circus," Douglas said. "I want it to be a great track event with more than one race. I think we should also have a 200, 400 and perhaps 800 (metres) for men and a couple of women's events."

"I should be a great track show, one with a lot of money on the line that sets a precedent for future races."

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THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgenson

ACROSS
1. Native changes
7. Belt
12. Mount — (observatory)
13. "To — things, and not my love."
14. Copy
15. Christmas reindeer
17. Ciphers
18. Pentacle
20. Receipts
21. Washington bills
22. A Lewis Article
24. Forlorn
25. Saree wearer
26. Others in Madrid
28. Holly visitor
29. "Wolfs' humanum set"
30. Huxley novel
34. Clear up
35. Fits snugly
36. Antigone's
37. NCO
40. Soul: Fr.
41. College head
42. Stop, doubt
43. Fourth dimension
45. We're Wynt
46. Early sand instrument
47. Eng. cheese
48. Prisoner on the last
51. Endless to
52. Fawn
53. Trailers
54. Tots up

DOWN
1. Gift of old
2. Dodge
3. Field mice
4. Second of a Latin trio

CLUES
5 Pad
6 Gifts
7 Crowd
8 together
9 Petos
10 Toll
11 Prison island
12 Chihuahua
13 River to the Rio Grande
14 Tire
15 Data of song
16 Friend keeper
20 "Farewell" —
21 "Farewell" —
22 Breathing sounds
23 Cathedral
24 Instrument
25 Fall in.
26 Relish
28 Reliques
30 Of worship
31 — National Park
32 Amazigh
33 Insects
34 " — day this
35 Davi
36 Aptitude
38 Disabilities

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

FRAP **FAIR** **FAIR** **FAIR**
1. **LOLL** **LOLL** **LOLL** **LOLL**
2. **AREA** **AREA** **AREA** **AREA**
3. **CYCLES** **CYCLES** **CYCLES** **CYCLES**
4. **BLUES** **BLUES** **BLUES** **BLUES**
5. **ARAFAT** **ARAFAT** **ARAFAT** **ARAFAT**
6. **PAFFY** **PAFFY** **PAFFY** **PAFFY**
7. **EVIA** **EVIA** **EVIA** **EVIA**
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World News

Panama removes officers loyal to Noriega as exiles return

PANAMA CITY (R) — The New Panamanian government has cleaned itself of military officers loyal to deposed strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega as prominent exiles returned to the country and long-suppressed institutions reopened.

Vice president Ricardo Arias Calderon told a news conference that 39 top officers were dismissed and would not form part of Panama's new security force because of their association with Noriega. Forty-two other officers were retired because they had completed 25 years in the military, he said.

Arias Calderon said two of those officers — Colonel Guillermo Wong, former head of intelligence, and Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas Macia — were instruments of Noriega's repression.

Many of the officers whose names appeared on the lists have been arrested by American troops who invaded Panama on Dec. 20 to overthrow Noriega and install a new government led by President Guillermo Endara. A few remained at large.

Exiles, including a trade union leader and the editor of La Prensa, a leading opposition paper under Noriega, returned home Friday to cheers and confetti receptions.

Another newspaper opposed to two decades of military rule in Panama, El Panama America, appeared on the streets Friday after being closed for 21 years.

Lieutenant General Carl Stiner, commander of the invasion, said U.S. soldiers had uncovered a cocaine processing lab Thurs-

day near Panama's border with Costa Rica.

Noriega took refuge in the Vatican embassy on Christmas eve seeking political asylum but handed himself over to U.S. authorities Wednesday night to be flown to Florida to face drug trafficking charges.

Military officials said an American soldier was shot by a sniper Friday in Panama City but was unharmed as his helmet deflected the bullet. It was the first report of an American soldier coming under hostile fire in days.

About 200 hard-core backers of Noriega remain on the loose and capable of causing trouble, says Stiner.

"Our first priority is to capture their leadership," the U.S. general told reporters Friday at Howard Air Force Base.

Panamanians almost unanimously support the U.S. invasion, despite casualties that personally touched nearly a quarter of the population, a poll there has found.

More than six in 10 of the 794 Panamanians polled expect the invading U.S. troops to remain there for six months or longer, and nearly eight in 10 said they want the soldiers to stay that long or "as long as necessary."

The survey, consisting mostly in-person interviews, was done

Tuesday through Thursday by CBS News and Belden and Russello, a research firm based in Washington. Remote areas were excluded, but results can be projected to about 75 per cent of the population. The poll has a four-point error margin.

CBS pollsters Kathleen A. Frankovic noted that the findings could reflect a "post-Noriega-out-of-the-embassy" among Panamanians. Follow-up surveys could find whether the support for the invasion is lasting or short-lived.

As things are, 92 per cent said Noriega's reign was mostly bad for Panama, and even more said the Panamanian people couldn't have ousted him alone. With Noriega out, 90 per cent expect the situation in Panama to improve.

The U.S. invasion won equally resounding support: Ninety-two per cent were in favour, with most of them approving strongly.

Eight in 10, moreover, believed the United States "sincerely cared about helping Panamanian democracy." Nearly as many said they would have supported a U.S. invasion during a coup attempt by Panamanian officers in October.

Bush said Friday he would dispatch Quayle to tour the region and try to reverse the negative reaction to the U.S. invasion of Panama, which was roundly deplored in Central and South America.

Bush said Friday he would dispatch Quayle to tour the region and try to reverse the negative reaction to the U.S. invasion of Panama, which was roundly deplored in Central and South America.

"I am concerned, because I am well aware of how our friends south of our border... look at the use of American force anywhere," Bush said at a White House news conference.

He added, however, that he believes the diplomatic damage is "correctable."

"worth the price."

In Miami, attorneys for Noriega say they aren't seeking a price bargain and will move ahead with plans to bombard a federal court with motions to dismiss drug-trafficking charges.

Meanwhile, Noriega remains hidden from the public eye, reportedly in a subterranean room at the federal courthouse where he has met several times with defense attorneys.

"A man who is innocent is not receptive to any price bargain," defense lawyer Steven Kollin said Friday after a two-hour conference with Noriega. "General Noriega is not guilty of these charges and if we can find a jury of 12 people who will have an open mind... General Noriega will be acquitted."

President George Bush says rebuilding Panama's economy is a "major priority" of his government, and he is sending Vice President Dan Quayle on a mission to repair relations with Latin American nations.

Bush said Friday he would dispatch Quayle to tour the region and try to reverse the negative reaction to the U.S. invasion of Panama, which was roundly deplored in Central and South America.

The reports could not be independently confirmed. Azerbaijan, including the capital Baku, has been closed indefinitely to foreign journalists.

The radical Popular Front, which is leading the protests, has demanded a meeting next week

Azeris continue border assault as Soviet troops patrol region

MOSCOW (R) — Crowds of Azerbaijanis began tearing down remaining border installations with Armenia, which erupted on Dec. 31, the most volatile incident in a wave of ethnic unrest and nationalist fervour gripping the country.

With Azerbaijanis authorities to discuss their grievances.

The turmoil along the Iranian border, which erupted on Dec. 31, is the most volatile incident in a wave of ethnic unrest and nationalist fervour gripping the country.

Local journalists said Nakhichevan, scene of a week of turmoil with predominantly Shi'ite Muslim Azerbaijanis demanding more farmland and free access to Iranian Shi'ites across the border, remained tense.

They said angry crowds had rejected a call by an official delegation Friday for damaged border posts, barbed wire and other installations to be replaced.

Instead protesters headed for a stretch of the border Saturday to complete the destruction of frontier posts.

"There has been no interference from the militia or other troops," said a journalist with the Nakhichevan newspaper Voroza Vostoka. But she said troops in jeeps and armoured personnel carriers were patrolling the area and the families of border troops were being evacuated, raising fears of a crackdown.

The reports could not be independently confirmed. Azerbaijan, including the capital Baku, has been closed indefinitely to foreign journalists.

The radical Popular Front, which is leading the protests, has demanded a meeting next week

led a meeting here with British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

However, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said a meeting between Gorbachev and a senior Japanese politician would go ahead as scheduled on Jan. 15.

Next Wednesday, Gorbachev leaves for a fact-finding trip to the Baltic Republic of Lithuania, where the local Communist Party last month cut its formal ties to the Moscow party.

Gorbachev, who is to head a senior party delegation to the republic, will report back to a special Central Committee plenum later this month.

The move by the Lithuanian party — which supporters say is the only way to be competitive in coming elections — has been attacked by the Kremlin as a threat to the entire Soviet party.

The break is the first since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and the parties in neighbouring Latvia and Estonia have hinted they may follow suit.

More than 300 civilians and 18 Interior Ministry troops died throughout the country in ethnic clashes over the past two years, a Soviet newspaper said Saturday.

The newspaper, a weekly supplement to the daily Izvestia, said some 5,000 civilians and more than 800 soldiers were injured in the disturbances, ranging from the Transcasus to the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan.

COLUMN

AIDS toll rises 50%

GENEVA (R) — AIDS swept the world at an alarming rate in 1989, the reported number of cases rising by more than half to over 200,000 despite a global prevention campaign. Reports from 177 countries or territories signalled a cumulative total of 203,599 cases to the World Health Organisation (WHO) by the end of 1989, compared with 132,976 by end-1988, according to WHO figures.

"We have arrived at a critical juncture in the global fight against AIDS," said Dr. Jonathan M. Mann, who leads WHO's AIDS fight. "The gap between the pace of the endemic and prevention and control efforts is threatening to widen."

A person can be infected for a long time by the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) before actually developing it. Many of those cases which are now being reported were infected with the virus several years ago, and because of bad reporting networks some of those reported during 1989 had even developed full-blown AIDS in earlier years.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	03	37	41 Cloudy
ATHENS	03	36	04 33 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	15	59	20 68 Clear
BANGKOK	23	73	33 81 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	21	77	32 55 Clear
CARDO	11	52	18 84 Clear
COPENHAGEN	01	34	02 36 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	03	21	02 32 Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	63	Cloudy
LAHORE	00	32	04 29 Rain
LOS ANGELES	04	47	11 52 Cloudy
MADRID	02	32	12 54 Clear
MICCA	22	72	27 61 Cloudy
MONTRAL	08	18	06 16 Clear
MOSCOW	10	44	14 04 16 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	05	46	21 69 Clear
NEW YORK	04	39	03 49 Clear
PARIS	02	28	02 41 Cloudy
ROME	04	25	12 54 Cloudy
SYDNEY	20	58	28 79 Cloudy
VIENNA	03	44	10 54 M. M. M. M.

M = indicates missing information.

Shevardnadze in Romania

In an interview with Bucharest Radio Friday, Shevardnadze arrived Saturday for the first talks between the Kremlin and the interim Romanian government that overthrew and executed Nicolae Ceausescu.

Shevardnadze was welcomed at Otopeni Airport by Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac and other Romanian officials, the state-run Rompresa News Agency reported.

Romania's ties with Moscow had been strained for decades by the maverick foreign and trade policies of Ceausescu, who had resisted the reforms of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shevardnadze's trip will be a one-day affair. But Silviu Brucan, a foreign policy expert in the National Salvation Front government, has said it was the fifth time he had been to the Hitler-Stalin pact.

Many Moldavians espousing greater autonomy from Moscow hope the revolution will open a new era of Eastern Europe's most tightly closed borders and foster cultural and other exchanges, which had been severely restricted in the past.

The Kremlin leader already has promised aid to the new Romania, including natural gas and oil

supplies. Under Ceausescu, Romania's 23 million citizens suffered through long winters with little heat or light in many homes.

In the interview, Shevardnadze underscored the Soviet Union's commitment to help.

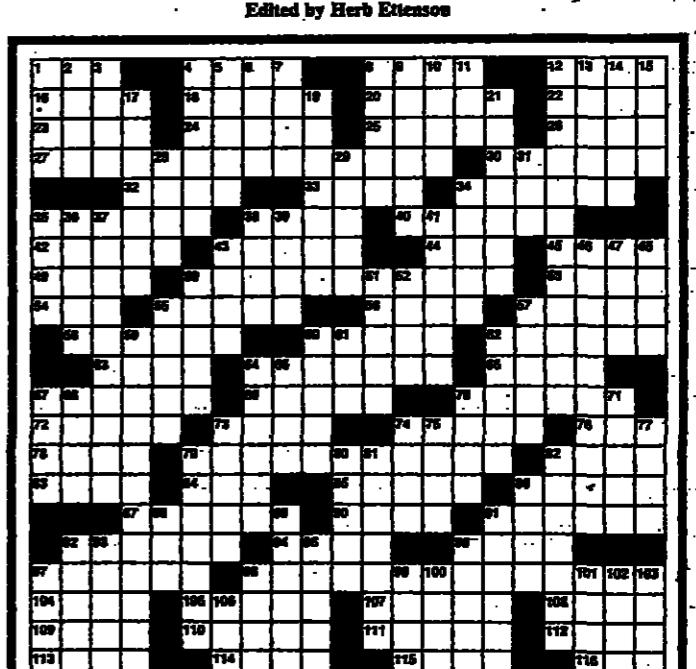
"Now, particularly at this time, we attach great importance to strictly observing our obligations for deliveries of gas, oil, other raw materials, and in all fields," he said.

Ceausescu, ousted on Dec. 22 and executed with his wife Elena on Dec. 25, exported vast quantities of food, especially meat, to the Soviet Union to ensure energy supplies from Moscow.

But he used most of them for his pet industrial projects, imposing rationing that forced Romanians to wear thick coats indoors in winter, and forced opera orchestras to play while wearing gloves and fur hats.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etelson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. You know for a fact things are kind of slow when lunch is the highlight of the workday.
2. I think if you head over backwards for your children you will eventually lose your balance.
3. The last art of conversation may revive itself if we can only have fewer TV commercials.
4. Play the profile new writer who wrote so deftly yet lacked knock to stop.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FILFZI DEM PRIM SET CLAISEDP KUTPIA KIEPBIA GM FBI DFAUFD LC PBI KLL2ZM GIEA SEPIAFUZZEA
2. NGYWL MERTY FLIP HIGIUM YUVTFIC VO V FEEDNEED, OLIT KLASSIC BSV Y VERCHIO PIVVO PEG LAW FGAOAFW KAOLERO AO.

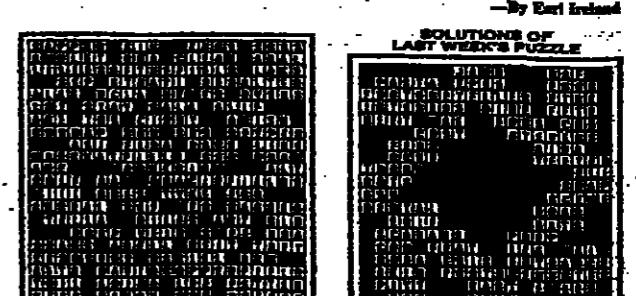
—By Lois H. Jones

3. WTOOL CRZ XMPACRL BEPSER WLYERFW PV C FAGWA EFCFXPZ TOOG VPF NW CSS.

—By Gordon Miller

4. QNCOT JANJED BNDL ANCOX OLLAOKT BICBOQ QF AOES JEOKD DOR JIJSK.

—By Earl Ireland



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cold wave kills over 200 in Bangladesh

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A Liberian army commander said armed dissidents entered north eastern Liberia nearly two weeks ago and killed more than 200 civilians, a radio station reported Saturday.

Brig.-Gen. Edward Smith, army commander in the embattled Nimba county, revealed the civilian casualties Friday when he briefed President Samuel K. Doe on the situation, according to Radio Elwa.

Radio Elwa is an independent Evangelical station based in Monrovia and broadcasting throughout West Africa.

Diplomats have said it is difficult to determine the number of Liberians fleeing the hostilities, but some reports have put the figure as high as 8,000 to 10,000.

Smith also displayed identity cards he said were taken from the dissidents in the fight, three of which he claimed showed that some of the rebels were Ivorian nationals, the radio said.

Liberia repeatedly has accused Ivory Coast of harbouring Doe's

opponents, a charge the Ivorians in the forest areas of Nimba" but that Liberian forces had driven the rebels from Bumuo, a border town.

He said those forces were bringing the situation under control.

The fighting started on Dec. 24 when, according to Liberia, two groups of rebels entered the country from Ivory Coast intent on overthrowing Doe, who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup.

Doe said it was the fifth time that dissidents have tried to infiltrate Liberia from Ivory Coast.

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